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A History of the United States. By EDWARD CHANNING. Volume II. *A Century of Colonial History, 1660-1760.* (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1908. Pp. vii, 614.)

PROFESSOR CHANNING is making substantial progress with his history of the United States, for having completed in this generous volume of more than 600 pages his consideration of the colonial period he is now ready to pass on to the Revolutionary era. The years 1660-1760 belong in greater part to a time much neglected of historians, and present difficulties and problems that have never been met or solved or even understood by many of those who have written hitherto on colonial affairs. For that reason scholars have awaited with expectancy Professor Channing's version particularly of the period from 1689 to 1750. If, after a perusal of the volume, we find it measuring up to a higher standard than that attained by its predecessors, we may deem the praise well earned; if, on the other hand, we find it falling short of the ideal, we may discount our criticism by noting that the day has not come when the history of this troublesome eighteenth century can be written adequately. Patient labor must yet be spent, unexplored material must be brought to light, traditional viewpoints must be changed, patriotic prejudices must be eradicated, and the balance between the purposes that were British and the purposes that were American must be restored. Mr. Beer is teaching us in part how this balance can be obtained, and others following in his footsteps will in time teach us more. That Professor Channing should have grappled with the task single-handed with half his source material beyond his reach, bears witness to his courage; that he should have produced a book destined for some years to stand alone as the only competent history of the period is a certain proof of his ability and understanding.

From the standpoint of the ideal four criticisms may be made. In the first place the work is not free from prejudice. Professor Channing's view of the Restoration shows that he is still possessed of the old dislike of Charles II. and all his courtiers. To speak of Osmund Airy's life of Charles with approval is to set the clock back twenty years; to talk about the "hopeless incapacity" of the Council for Foreign Plantations of 1660 is to betray a sympathy with the prejudices of Massachusetts and unfamiliarity with the actual work of the council; to speak slightly of the colonial governors in general indicates an inherited dislike of the British government and all its works. In the second place, in spite of all its wealth of new information and the manifest labor that has been expended upon it, the work shows occasional omissions that are difficult to understand. Why is practically nothing said of the details of British control from 1660 to 1696? Why is no attempt made to search into the principles underlying the navigation acts or to connect them with England's traditional policy? Why has no attempt been made to deal with the offensive aspects of colonial action and inaction during

the Seven Years' War? Why is all mention of the postal-packet service limited to a brief analysis of the Act of 1710? Some of these omissions constitute serious defects, others that might be mentioned seem strange in view of Professor Channing's allotments of space—as of twelve pages to Fox and the Quakers in England. In the third place Professor Channing betrays a certain insularity in his frequent insistence on the impotence of the home-government and the futility of the system established for the control of the colonies. The efficacy of the royal veto cannot be tested by reference to an occasional act; the value of the plantation duty and other royal revenues cannot be determined except by recourse to sources of information that Professor Channing does not appear to have used; the general efficiency of the Board of Trade cannot be determined from the few scattered references here given to its operations. In fact the chapter on the Reconstructed Colonial System is marred throughout by a manifest lack of sympathy and by a proneness to find fault. In the last place Professor Channing has failed to give his treatment either unity, purpose or depth. He has substituted a topical arrangement for the old geographical distribution of data, and in avoiding Scylla has fallen into Charybdis. We cannot see that his narrative moves forward to any culmination. We should naturally expect to find ourselves at the end of the work ready to understand better the causes of the Revolution, but we cannot see that anywhere Professor Channing has sought to meet this expectation or has made any attempt to search for causes. Progress is noted here and there, but that general movement which marks the development of all the colonies taken together seems to lie altogether outside the author's interest.

Taking Professor Channing's treatment as we find it, we may note its leading features and conspicuous merits. Beginning with a discussion of the colonial policy of the Restoration the author deals with individual colonies, 1660-1689, devoting a special chapter to an admirable description of what he calls the "Gallic Peril, 1664-1689", and completing this phase of the subject with chapters on the Stuart domination in New England and the revolution of 1689-1690. With chapter VIII., on the reconstructed colonial system, he enters the "neglected" period and takes up the act of 1696, the constitutional controversies in the various colonies, the systems of labor, education, religion, and commerce, questions of race-origin and influence, closing with the struggle between England and France. That of the 400 pages given up to these subjects 100 should be devoted to British policy and 150 to labor, religion, education, and commerce is evidence that we have here no following of beaten paths, but a thoroughly new and independent exploring of the colonial field. Professor Channing knows his printed material *au fond*, and is fairly familiar with the manuscript material in Boston and Philadelphia. He does not appear, however, to have searched the *Calendars* very thoroughly or to have made exhaustive use of what he calls the "Phila-

delphia Transcripts". Of other manuscript-material his book shows no certain knowledge. He has analyzed in an admirable manner difficult financial, commercial and industrial situations, has written probably the ablest account of French policy that we have, and has dealt satisfactorily with the character and careers of such men as Dongan, Andros, Shirley and Nicholson. We doubt, however, if he really approves of any of the British representatives in America, and even when trying to be fair he seems to be pleased if the balance can be made to tilt in favor of the colonies. Apart from the first four chapters, where the treatment seems perfunctory and the originality less marked, the material has been handled with firmness and independence and space has been distributed with an admirable disregard for precedents. It requires courage to dismiss the whole history of Oglethorpe and Georgia in less than two and a half pages. The work is elaborately annotated with footnotes and references, while bibliographical notes at the end of each chapter furnish the author with a further opportunity for expressions of opinions. The reproductions of contemporary maps are interesting, though in some instances they are on too small a scale and too faint to be of much value. The general map at the end, prepared especially for this volume and illustrating the territorial expansion of the colonies, is excellent. Professor Channing has set so high a standard of accuracy in his work that it is surprising to find a few errors of rather an unexpected character. He speaks of Methodists in 1671 (p. 16), of Professor Williston Walker as still at the Hartford Theological Seminary (p. 437), and twice of a "State Paper Office" in London (pp. 62, 477). He seems to take Berkeley's well-known statement about learning and printing in Virginia as if it were literally true, and he certainly implies that there were no executions for witchcraft in the colonies before 1688 (pp. 83, 458-459). His belief that the Bishop of London's jurisdiction originated in the bishop's membership in the Virginia Council under James I. seems to us wholly improbable, since the bishop's jurisdiction did not arise until after the Restoration.

We may not agree with all that Professor Channing has said or be entirely satisfied with his way of treating the history of this period, but we do acknowledge that he has produced a book of first importance for the study of the neglected period and in so doing has removed a reproach hitherto cast upon historical scholarship in America.

The Writings of Samuel Adams. Collected and edited by HARRY ALONZO CUSHING. Volume IV., 1778-1802. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1908. Pp. xvii, 431.)

WITH this volume the series of Adams's writings is complete. We now know what is to be known of the arch-conspirator and revolutionist. One can be reasonably sure that there is nothing of importance omitted from these volumes, because the editor has been industrious in hunting